

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, August 25, 1882, with transcript

A Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mr. Alexander Graham Bell. Newport, Wednesday, Aug. 25, 1882. My dear Alec:

Your telegram saying "Mail ribbons — Legion d' Honneur not buttons" just received. Think you must mean enclosed ribbons, although what you can want of them passes my comprehension. Hope you will have a pleasant time. Do go into it all scientific and sociable. Go to Quebec, Ottawa, everywhere else and make all the friends you can, and invite them here if you like.

I am so thankful I came home, and will never again attempt to leave them for so distant a point for pleasure. Isn't it disgusting that people seem always to take the most inconvenient times to be ill. It seems that not only was Daisy really quite seriously ill, but Maria was also, and Maurice and his baby too had a touch of the prevailing complaint. The doctor's first question was about drainage and water. So I sent for the Sanitary inspector who has not yet come, and ordered careful filtrations. Before that only half our water was filtered. Now we have come to the end of our water and shall have to pay fifty dollars for some more.

Sister says that Daisy was very white and weak Sunday morning, lying perfectly still and refusing to move or speak, and had had several bad movements, and the Dr. said next morning when he heard that she was better that he was very glad to hear it for he had not known what he might have heard. However she seems all right now, bright and with a good appetite. Still we have to be careful. Maurice has gone to New York, so Sister, Augusta and I are alone today. Gertrude went this morning. Sister's baby is well now, and Maria better though still looking wretchedly. Altogether I cannot be thankful enough to be at home with my children under my own eyes. 2 I believe Sister and Maurice

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remain until you return, so don't hurry home on my account. I want to know all you are seeing, hearing, and doing. Please send me papers, and be sure and bring yourself as prominently forwards as possible. I want to see the papers full of Graham Bell one more. I am ambitious for you, but I don't want my ambition gratified at the expense of your health. So come home with the determination to get up early in the mornings. What do you say to my meeting you at Portsmouth and going to that place together? I should not mind going that far for a day or two.

Elsie wants me to enclose specimens of her artistic skill. If the stamp on the envelope doesn't look very well it will be because it is her sticking.

Much love and kindest regards to Mr. W. S. J. Tell him not to smoke those things and drink milk instead.

Yours